2027 MISS GRAND NATIONAL RODEO QUEEN CONTEST

Contest Guidelines & Handbook

The Miss Grand National Rodeo Contest is held annually to select a young lady who has the desire and enthusiasm to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the sport of rodeo and the community.

Contest Date**:** **Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 8:00 am**
Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue
Daly City, CA 94014

Entry Deadline: ***Post Marked by Wednesday, August 5, 2026***

Applications & Questions, contact the Miss GNR Coordinator:

Missi Giorgi
1713 Church Street
Modesto, CA 95357
(209) 988-1135 / Mgiorgi788@gmail.com

ARE YOU THE NEXT MISS GRAND NATIONAL RODEO?

Miss Grand National Rodeo is a young lady who wishes to promote the sport of rodeo, and in doing so promotes the great Western way of life. She is the ideal Western American girl who has an appealing appearance, a congenial personality and knowledge of the equine industry, our community, and the sport of rodeo.

WHAT TYPE OF YOUNG LADY DOES THE MISS GRAND NATIONAL RODEO CONTEST ATTRACT?

- A young lady who wishes to be a representative of her community, the Cow Palace, and the sport of rodeo.
- A young lady who loves horses and everything they represent, who is willing to show the rest of our community what can be accomplished when surrounded by this environment.
- A young lady who portrays excellent sportsmanship and high moral ethical character.
- A young lady who understands the sport of rodeo and can explain and "promote" rodeo to anyone with whom she may come in contact, especially those unfamiliar with the sport.
- An ambitious young lady who is interested in furthering her chosen career through higher education or special training.
- A young lady who can speak intelligently and display dignity.

IMPORTANT CONTEST INFORMATION & TICKET SALES ELEMENT

- Contest will be held on **Saturday, October 10, 2026, at the Cow Palace** starting at **8:00 am**.
- Coronation will be during the **Evening Performance of the Grand National Rodeo on Saturday, October 10, 2026** (rodeo performance starts at 7:30 pm).

Rules & Regulations

Qualifications for Entry

- Queen Contestants must not be less than 18 years of age or more than 24 years of age as of January 1, 2026
- Contestants must never have been married
- Contestants must not have had any children
- Contestants must be residents of California.
- Contestants may not be a current title holder representing any other organization.
- Contestants must complete the contest application and submit required documents by application deadline **postmarked Wednesday, August 5, 2026. (see application for full details)**

Please email autobiography and picture for the program to Missi Giorgi at Mgiorgi788@gmail.com ***by Wednesday, August 5, 2026***. Direct all contest questions to Miss Giorgi as well.

- Application packet to be sent to:

  Missi Giorgi, MGNR Coordinator
  1713 Church Street
  Modesto, CA 95357

Contest Rules

- Final decision in all categories will be that of the judges and the Grand National Rodeo/The Cow Palace.
- Coaching from the sidelines is not permitted.
  - Evidence of coaching can be grounds for complete disqualification.
- Parents, friends, and relatives are welcome to attend any or all activities designated as public activities if they agree to abide by all rules and regulations for the activity.
- All contestants and the winner of the contest are required to dress western when representing the Grand National/Cow Palace in any capacity.
  - Contestants and the Winner are required to provide their own wardrobe.
- The contestant's horsemanship ability, skill, and overall appearance, as well as the grooming and cleanliness of the horse and tack will be judged. The horses and equipment will not be judged.

- Contestants are to provide their own transportation to and from the contest and all promotional activities.
- Each contestant must conduct herself in a professional manner; portray high moral standards and good sportsmanship, befitting the Grand National and setting a good example to the public, future competitors, and the Cow Palace.
- All online content posted as a contestant for Miss Grand National Rodeo will uphold the standards expected should they receive the title of Miss Grand National Rodeo
    - Any inappropriate behavior or content found prior to, during, or following the contest may result in disqualification of the contestant/queen as well as forfeiture of all contest prizes gained prior to, during, or following the participation in the Grand National Rodeo Queen Contest.
        - Sources of said behavior include, but are not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, TikTok, and the like.
        - Personal websites & blogs.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct online or in person from parents, friends and relatives beginning from the time the application is received until the contest is over is not tolerated.
    - Any inappropriate behavior or content may result in disqualification of the contestant/queen as well as forfeiture of all prizes gained by participation in the Grand National Rodeo Queen Contest.
- Contestants are not permitted at any time during the contest or as reigning queen to drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use foul language in public.
- After the coronation, each contestant is expected to stay until the end of the performance and behave appropriately as well as show good sportsmanship.
    - Misconduct could cause ineligibility for future contests as well as removal of any prizes won.

JUDGING PROCEDURES & CRITERIA

Judges will score entries individually on the following categories:

- Appearance
- Horsemanship
- Poise and Personality
- 3-5 Minute Open Speech
- Impromptu Questions
- Interview
- Knowledge of Grand National Rodeo & Jr. Livestock Show
- Miscellaneous- to be announced on the day of the contest.

1. **Appearance:** The purpose of this judging is to select the contestant who is highest in:
    - Attractiveness – appealing quality
    - Grooming – this should include neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair, hat, boots, and other apparel.
    - Photogenic Quality – Judges will see a picture of each contestant. A contestant's strength of character and personality are reflected strongly in a wholesome appearance. Also, the actual appearance of the contestant will be compared to the photo to determine similarity.
    - Posture
    - Professional behavior and decorum in every situation
    - Attire.
        - Contestant's awareness of what is fashionable western dress with particular attention given to color coordination. Contestants should be aware of how the use of various color combinations can enhance appearance and eye appeal.
        - Judges will observe how a contestant's clothes fit and suit her personality, the length of her trousers and jackets, the crease and shape of her hat as well as how she carries out the "total look."
        - This is not a clothes contest; however, the contestants are expected to appear in "full western dress", which means a suit of pants, western blouse or shirt, jacket, hat, belt and boots at all times unless otherwise specified. It is not

necessary to invest in an excessive amount of expensive clothing. Judges will be looking for versatility and imagination displayed by the contestants.
    - Contestants should be familiar with western wear, and more specifically, the outfits worn during competition.

2. Horsemanship: Contestants will be required to perform a reining pattern that will be provided to them once their application is received. Prior to the reining pattern there will be a flat class in which all the contestants will ride in the arena together. The purpose of this division is to select the contestant who rates highest in:

- Horsemanship – Control of mount and the way each situation is handled. The contestant will be required to mount and dismount and perform a queen's presentation ride as well as present the GNR Arena Flag.
    - Balance – The ability to sit in a saddle.
    - Position of hands, feet, and seat.
    - Mounting and dismounting.
    - The understanding and skill of the contestant and the overall appearance (grooming and cleanliness) of horse and the equipment.
- Each contestant will be interviewed on each of the following categories:
    - Knowledge of tack, horse care, feeding, disease, anatomy, etc.
    - Knowledge of professional rodeo
    - History
    - Organization
    - Rodeo terminology or vernacular
    - Explanation of standard events

- Dress wear for horsemanship is:
    - Wrangler Jeans and Western Shirt.
    - Hat, boots, and belt are required.
    - Chaps are ***not*** permitted.
    - Hats must be secured to ensure that they do not come off while performing.
- Since a contestant's personality projects from horseback to the audience and judges, showmanship should be considered.
- Excessive use of spurs will not be permitted.
- **Contestants are required to warm up their own horses. If anyone other**

than the contestant is seen on the horse in the main arena this could be grounds for disqualification.

- **Any contestant and/or contestant family member or friends abusing an animal by any unnecessary non-competitive or competitive action will constitute an immediate disqualification. Judges will immediately inform the contestant that she has been disqualified. Spectators will be informed of the disqualification due to unnecessary roughness against livestock. Abuse of livestock will not be tolerated.**
- Note: in the event of a tie between contestants in overall score, the Horsemanship scored will be used to determine the final winner.

3. Poise and Personality: The purpose of this division is to select the contestant who is rated highest in:

- Intelligence – Good common sense and logic.
- Education – Good grammar and general education.
- Conversational ability in varied areas.
- Sense of humor.
- Genuine interest in other people, noticeable consideration of others, and good sportsmanship always.
- Projection – Ability to project one's personality whether from horseback in an arena, on television, or before an audience.
- Showmanship – Being able to present oneself in a gracious manner.
- Positive outlook on life in general.
- Promptness in keeping pageant schedule.
- Ability to keep composure in public.

4. **3-5-Minute Open Speech:** Prepare a 3–5-minute speech to perform in front of the judges and spectators the day of the queen contest. The speeches will be done after horsemanship. Because you will be required to make public appearances as a representative and liaison for the Grand National Rodeo, you will be judged upon your public speaking abilities.

- Among other criteria, you will be judged on:
    - Preparedness
    - Presentation
    - Voice
    - Enthusiasm
    - Delivery
    - Effectiveness

- Value and validity of the information you present

5. Impromptu Questions: Each contestant will be asked several general 'impromptu' questions about herself and rodeo knowledge. The judges will score each contestant according to how well she presents herself, her composure and mannerisms while answering the questions. This will be added to her final scoring.

6. Interview: Each contestant will have a 10-15 min interview.

7. Knowledge of the Grand National Rodeo

8. Miscellaneous: To be announced on the day of the contest. Each contestant will be asked to perform an impromptu task that relates to possible Miss GNR duties.

SERVICE AWARD: An additional service award will be given to the young lady who, with her horse, serves her local community and the people in it. The recipient will receive $250 and another $250 will be given to the charity chosen by the recipient. Sponsored by an anonymous donor.

COMPETITION DRESS CODE:

Horsemanship (**outfit #1**) should be a pair of Wranglers, a western shirt, boots, belt, and western cowboy hat.

Speech and impromptu (**outfit #2**) should be shirt and skirt, or a dress, all to be worn with boots, a belt, western cowboy hat and accessories.

Interview **(optional outfit #3)** a suit, shirt and skirt or a dress with boots, a belt, western cowboy hat and accessories. (Please note: You do not have to have a third outfit; you may wear outfit #2 for your interview as well).

Additional Information: *We would like our queen contestants to participate in many of the special events held during the 2026 GNR as much as possible.* ***This will not reflect on judging; however, it is an opportunity we offer to familiarize you with the GNR, the Cow Palace staff and public speaking/appearance(s).***

Currently there are the following scheduled GNR events on non-competition days, subject to change Friday, October 2nd:

School Tours: Local elementary school students will visit the Cow Palace and tour the rodeo set-up and livestock halls with their classes and teachers. They love to meet Rodeo Queen contestants.

Jr. Livestock Awards: Assist in handing out awards in any of the three show rings.

Queen Agreement: Serving as Miss Grand National Rodeo

If I become Miss Grand National Rodeo I agree to:

1. Avail myself of all opportunities to appear as Miss Grand National Rodeo to the public and always be prepared for photographs and interview opportunities to promote the Grand National, the Cow Palace and the sport of rodeo.
2. I agree that throughout my reign as Miss Grand National Rodeo Queen, I shall remain unmarried and shall observe a high standard of moral and ethical behavior in public and online.
3. I agree that my behavior and all posts reflecting myself will be befitting my title and setting a good example to the public, future competitors, The Grand National and the Cow Palace.
    a. This includes but is not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, TikTok, and the like.
    b. Personal websites & blogs.
    c. Content posted by others in which the likeness of Miss Grand National Rodeo is used or associated.
    d. Improper content found online or in public can be subject to disciplinary action up to and when necessary, including the removal of her title of Miss Grand National Rodeo.
    e. That I will not at any time during the contest or as reigning queen drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use foul language in public. Violation of this may result in the removal of the title of Miss Grand National Rodeo.
4. I agree to provide my own horse and transportation to all events as necessary, including but not limited to **6** of these rodeos:
    - Oakdale
    - Clovis
    - Livermore (Required)
    - Redding
    - Reno (Required)
    - Hayward (Required)
    - Woodside
    - Gilroy
    - Salinas Rodeo (Required)

    Travel budget limited to $1,800. Receipts and Cow Palace reimbursement form are required for reimbursement. These will be provided for the winner.
5. I agree to participate in all the required events and performances of the 2027 GNR.
6. I agree to attend and participate in the ***2028 MGNR*** contest.

7. I agree I will not compete for or accept any other rodeo queen title during my 2027 MGNR reign.
8. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the PRCA and/or other organizations while participating in any rodeo or other events, including but not limited to animal welfare rules & regulations.

By entering this contest and assuming the title of Miss Grand National Rodeo I agree that I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations and will abide by these rules during the entire Miss Grand National Rodeo Pageant and during my reign as Miss Grand National Rodeo, should I earn the title. Failure of the 2027 MGNR to attend the above could result in my immediate disqualification as 2027 MGNR and relinquishment of the crown, saddle, chaps, et al., as well as title as 2027 MGNR. If a conflict occurs with attending any of the above events and/or conditions as 2027 MGNR, I will contact Missi Giorgi at (209) 988-1135.

NOTE: *The above rules and regulations are designed for your safety and to keep the contest running properly and in a professional manner. Rules and regulations may be changed at the discretion of MGNR Coordinator, Cow Palace Staff, and/or Judges.*

Name (Print)	Signature	Date